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February 22, 2008

TO: Each Health Deputy

FROM: Jonathan E. Fielding, M.D., M.P.H.  
Director and Health Officer

SUBJECT: **EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PRESS CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP**

I would like to invite your office to participate in a press conference the Department of Public Health (DPH) will be holding to highlight its "Preparing our Community for Emergencies" workshop and pandemic flu preparedness. DPH is hosting the "Preparing our Community for Emergencies" workshop to assist community-based organizations in developing their roles and response plans during emergencies.

The workshop will take place at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, February 29, 2008 at the Japanese American National Museum at 369 East First Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012. The keynote address will begin at 9:30 a.m., with the press conference to follow at 10:00 a.m.

The keynote speaker, Mr. Thomas H. Ray, will discuss his leadership role in turning an abandoned K-Mart into a functioning overflow hospital for Hurricane Katrina evacuees by mobilizing various community members and organizations. Mr. Ray is an ordained minister, licensed contractor and the business administrator for his church in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. I will speak on behalf of the Department of Public Health at the press conference.

The press conference will also showcase "Clean Hands," a grassroots public education campaign to prepare for pandemic flu by encouraging frequent hand washing. The campaign reaches multicultural and multilingual communities by targeting the diverse populations in Los Angeles County. Campaign materials are in English, Spanish, Chinese, Korean, Thai, Khmer, Tagalog, Vietnamese, Armenian, Russian, Arabic and Farsi. In addition, the campaign reaches out to the African American; Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT); and disability communities.

If your office is interested in participating in this event, please contact Rose Anne Rodriguez, Director of External Relations and Communications for DPH, at (213) 240-8144. I hope you will be able to join us as we help our community agencies to better prepare for emergency situations.

JEF:rar

c: Sheila Shima